

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: CAPLER WOOD

DISTRICT: SOUTH HEREFORD

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL, South Hereford District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 588326

Area: 5.98 (ha.) 14.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 149

1:10,000: SO 53 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1969

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
In the Wye Valley AONB.

Reasons for Notification:

A block of ancient native broadleaved scarp woodland forming part of Capler Woods which lie adjacent to the River Wye between Hereford and Ross. This section of the Wye Valley is agricultural in character and Capler Wood forms a valuable oasis for wildlife in this area.

The woodland consists of two main structural types. The first is dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and small leaved lime *Tilia cordata* with alder *Alnus glutinosa* in the lower parts of the wood near the river. This type of woodland has a good shrub layer with species such as field maple *Acer campestre* and hazel *Corylus avellana*. The second type is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with occasional sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and birch *Betula pendula*. The shrub layer is mainly dominated by hazel *Corylus avellana*. In parts there is good regeneration of ash. The scarce large-leaved lime *Tilia platyphyllos* has also been recorded in the area in the past.

The ground vegetation is richer in the oak dominated woodland with wood melick *Melica uniflora*, greater woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* and cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense* as characteristic species. Other notable plants are nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium* and fingered sedge *Carex digitata*, a nationally rare species. The ash woodland ground flora is less interesting, dominated mainly by bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. The woodland is rich in mosses and ferns. Hart's-tongue fern *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, in particular, is present in large numbers.